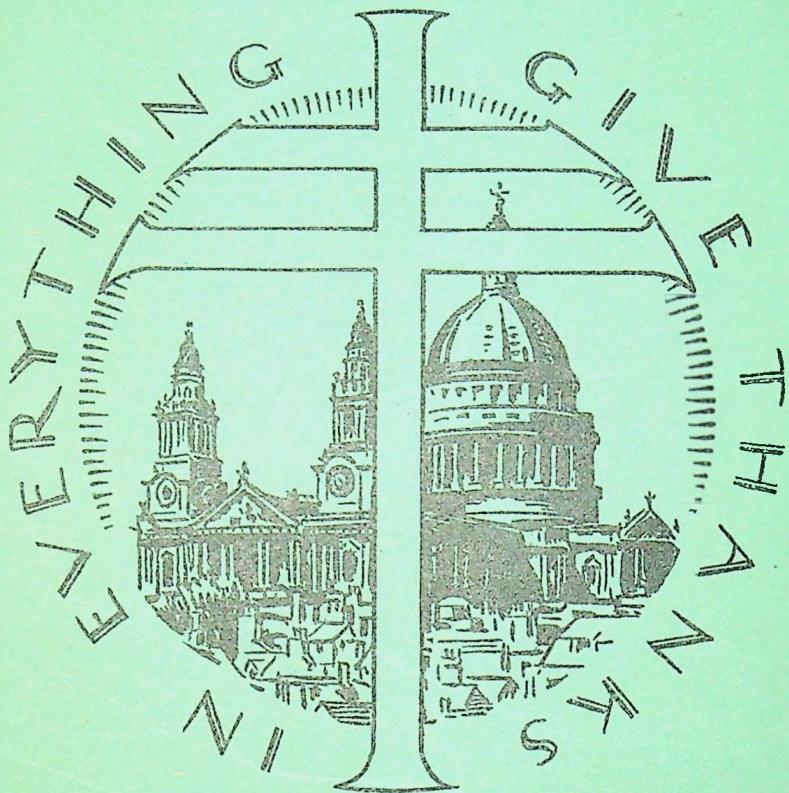


THANKSGIVING



THE BIRTHDAY THANKSGIVING OF
TOC H IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
DECEMBER 9th - 1933

THE IMITATION OF GOD.

LOVING Him, thou wilt be an imitator of His goodness. Wonder not that man can be an imitator of God; by the will of God he can. For happiness consists not in exercising lordship over a neighbour, nor in wishing to take advantage of weaker men, nor in possessing wealth and using force against inferiors. Not in ways like these can a man imitate God; such ways are far removed from His majesty. But whosoever takes up his neighbour's burden, whosoever is willing to use his superiority as a means of benefiting another man who is in this respect his inferior, whosoever bestows upon the needy what he himself holds as a recipient of God's bounty and so becomes a good genius to the recipients of his bounty, he is an imitator of God.

—From the Epistle to Diognetus.

GRACE ABOUNDING



“ NOW MARK ME WELL—IT IS PROVIDED IN
THE VERY ESSENCE OF THINGS, THAT FROM
ANY FRUITION OF SUCCESS, NO MATTER
WHAT, SHALL COME FORTH SOMETHING
TO MAKE A GREATER STRUGGLE NECESSARY.”

—Walt Whitman.

TOC H BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL, MCMXXXIII



ONE LAMP CAN LIGHT A THOUSAND, NOR GROW LESS:
SO NOBLENESSENKINDLETH NOBLENESSEN.

GRACE ABOUNDING

Among English Hymns, two from John Henry Newman are loved wherever there is worship in the English tongue. One of these is quarried from the DREAM OF GERONTIUS; but more than half was left behind, unheeded by hymnologists. Tonight, some of these quatrains shall begin our Festival. They tell man's struggle and accomplishments, under the hand of God.

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS.

English Hymnal 471.

Tune : Richmond.



PRAISE to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all His words most wonderful;
Most sure in all His ways.

Woe to thee, man! for he was found
A recreant in the fight;
And lost his heritage of Heaven,
And fellowship with light.

With now a fear and now a hope,
With aids which chance supplied,
From youth to old, from sire to son,
He lived, and toiled, and died.

He dree'd his penance age by age;
And step by step began
Slowly to doff his savage garb,
And be again a man.

And quickened by the Almighty's breath,
And chastened by His rod,
And taught by Angel-visitings,
At length he sought his God;

And learned to call upon His name,
And in His faith create
A household and a fatherland,
A city and a state.

Glory to Him who from the mire,
In patient length of days,
Elaborated into life
A people to His praise!

John Henry Newman.

The great Household remains standing. The Founder-Padre reads :

CHRISTENDOM is wont to carve upon the tombstones of the departed the letters R.I.P.; but on men in this world the Apostle Paul himself in 1 Thessalonians V. sets the same letters in another order:—

Rejoice evermore: Pray without ceasing: In everything give thanks:

The order he employs suggests the opening to our Birthday Festival, gathered with one accord beneath his Dome.

REJOICE EVERMORE.

It is profitable for Christian men to be calling often to mind the very beginnings of Grace, the former days, the years of ancient time, the songs sung in the night; and to remember that word and name upon which the Lord hath most caused them to hope. They who sing not God's praises, will soon forget his works. Brothers in this design, submit your spirits to our Festival; and, while the tabors sound, look diligently for the inward Treasure. The sight thereof will preach the old deliverance, the struggles for a handhold here in London, the giving above asking, the growth beyond our dreams, and now the joy that cometh with the day. Did ever men trust God, and were confounded?

One House, which stood the storm, has brought us to our world-wide opportunity; to that one House we come to-night in spirit; and thence our ceremonies of joy flow forth in light around the earth. Some of these lights are crowded close together; others are lonely for a thousand miles. If there be those among our multitudes to-night who come from loneliness, or where the work goes haltingly, remember it was harder to begin, when few had knowledge and fewer confidence. Being hard put to it, you inherit the blessing bestowed on all pioneers, who stand by their resolution to go forward.

V Let us bless the Lord.

R It is meet and right so to do.

V This is the day that the Lord hath made.

R We will rejoice and be glad in it.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

We must not go about to establish our own righteousness, nor to be brisk talkers in matters of religion; but so to behave in constant love towards our neighbours that God may deign to stand behind our human love with His, and to refresh us with His words and gifts and promises, as a people who have found a new world.

Especially it is our business in Toc H to be going again and again into the company of poor people, until we cannot stay away from them, and all they have to teach of trust and cheerfulness; for the poor carry the broad seal of heaven.

That we may not refrain from this adventure—it lieth hard at our home door—let us betake ourselves to hearty prayer towards the further building up of Toc H in faith and charity. The care and the desire, not only of the leaders, must be that the whole family may find grace, mercy, peace, within the knowledge of the Saviour. Let us lay ourselves at His feet, Who loved poor people and understood their ways. Then, as we go about, we shall do good.

V The Lord be with you.

R And with thy spirit.

V This is the place the Lord hath blessed.

R This is none other than the House of God; this is the Gate of Heaven.

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS.

Toc H may as well hope to reach the sun with a finger, as to think that the old men can lead the young on this great journey. The old man's dream is not the young man's vision, for visions lie ahead, and dreams behind. Our Elder Brethren grow not old, and these remain your leaders. Unknown to you, they gird you, they inspire you. Hold fast to them; for nothing doth more prepare a man's soul for the House of Glory than to have friends therein whom he holds dear.

In everything which you attempt or suffer, give thanks. Cry out to God that you and your men may know the reality of the truth of the Gospel, and never be far from it. Look at the Bible with new eyes, until the words themselves talk with you every day and at your meetings. Men do not know the faith; so they continue at a great loss, tossed by their own poor ignorance. We must not let them be, nor must we be ourselves, cold and unenlightened; when there is room and mercy, were we in downright earnest to attain it. Were we a House of Thankfulness, the way would be better for ourselves and others, whom we march to relieve, sorely besieged by self and doubt within the walls of Mansoul. But we can only raise that siege, if we march midmost between light and love. Light must precede and love bring up our forces, insufficient in themselves. We must look to the Lamb, who left the midst of the Throne, and now

stands in the midst of those same Elder Brethren. They drew their steadiness from His character. He spake not words in haste. His words endure.

V Lean on them. Lift your hearts.

R We lift them to the Lord.

V Ours is a House that the Lord hath built.

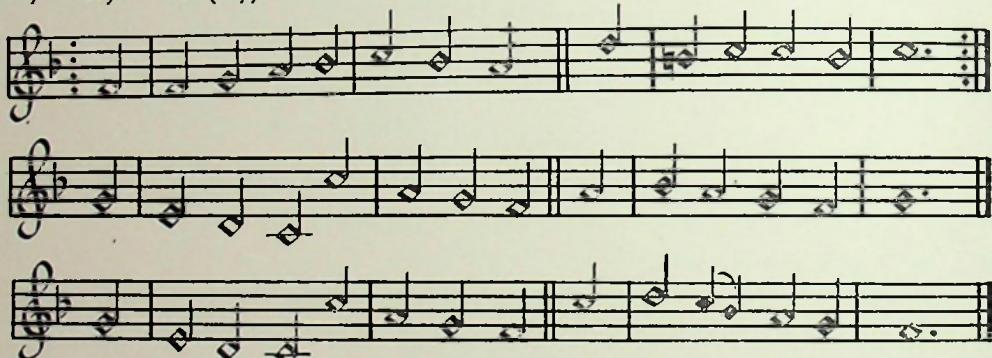
R Except the Lord keep the house, their labour is but lost that built it.

A SONG OF PRAISE FOR LONDON.

During this singing will be made the Collection, which, after defraying the expenses of the Service, goes towards the Diocese of Pretoria, according to the custom of the Festival.

Oxford Hymn Book 177

Tynemouth



PRAISE God for all that moves and yearns
To all things just and free;
For many a soul that only burns
More righteous days to see;
For peace, for law, for gold, for wheat,
And for His printed word,
Praise Him, ye throngs in every street;
Great London, praise the Lord.

Ye that her bridges cross by night,
Where on the river play
A thousand stars from lamps alight,
That mete out narrower day.
Praise Him, and say this river bears
Great fleets that ceaseless go;
And yet, for these eight hundred years
Hath not borne in a foe.

Praise Him, great city fair and free,
And helpless, but for God;
Nor siege, nor sack have frightened thee
Of alien hosts untrod.
Praise Him, and pray while yet 'tis well;
Nor danger nigh thee waits;
Pray thy Celestial Sentinel
To guard thy silver gates.

Praise Him, when clash thy weighty hours
By measure night and day;
Praise Him, while yet a hundred towers
Ring out thy times to pray.
Praise Him, where murmurs fall and swell,
As of some wind-borne chord,
The majesty of millions tell;
Great London, praise the Lord! *Jean Ingelow.*

• By the courtesy of her Executors and of Messrs. Longmans.

A LITTLE LESSON ON FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

St. Paul's Epistle to the Colossians, iii., 12—17.

The Household is now seated, while there is read by Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, a Vice-President of Toc H, this Lesson :—

PUT on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any : even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and to the Father by him.

THE BLESSED SIXTH OF JOHN.

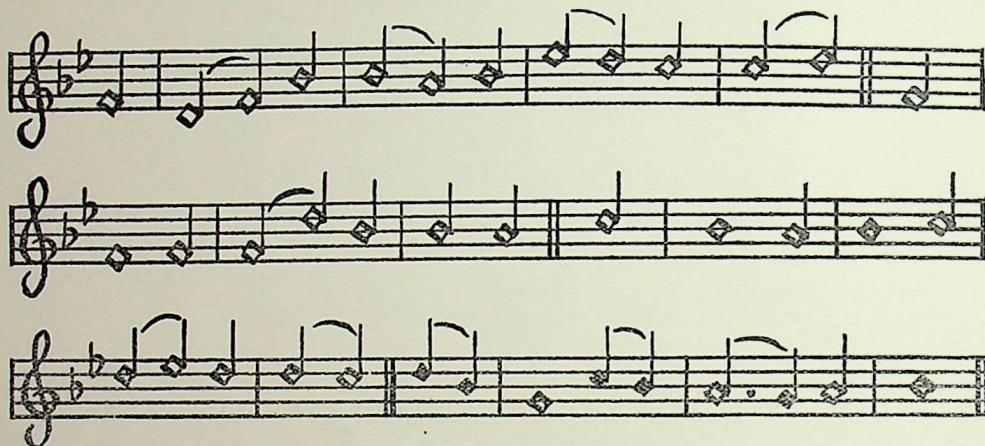
The Founder Padre then reads:—

HEAR the words of our Lord Jesus, written in St. John's Gospel: "I am the bread of life: he that cometh unto me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

The Household now stands up to sing this Hymn, during which the collection will be presented at the Altar.

English Hymnal 502

Tune: Wiltshire



OUR God hath not forgotten Grace,
Nor left off being kind.
The mercy in the Saviour's face
Breaks in upon man's mind.

"I will in no wise cast him out"
The blessed Sixth of John
Brings in a word for burdened doubt
To lean a soul upon.

This greatest promise gives release
In every storm and stress.
Into the bosom of this Peace
Let leap your weariness.

When the next furlong's full of fear,
No hold for foot or hand,
This precious word of life draws near,
And poor men understand.

Philip Clayton.

THE APOSTLES' CREED.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

V The Lord be with you.

R And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

The Household kneels.

V Lord, have mercy upon us.

R Christ, have mercy upon us.

V Lord have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR TOC H.

C Let us pray for the Soul and Body of Toc H.

V It is good to hold fast by God.

R For no man hath quickened his own soul.

OUR LORD, we beseech Thee watch over the soul of our fraternity. Strengthen and sustain the body of Toc H; exalt its purposes; refine its aims; further its undertakings; fulfil its prayers. Suggest to every member deep thoughts concerning it. May the Father's power sustain us; the wisdom of the Son instruct us; the tides of the Spirit renew and quicken us. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask and think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, world without end. Amen.

¶ Let us pray for ourselves as members.

℣ O Thou Whose footsteps on the deep are not known.

℟ Deliver us from any final failure of Faith and Hope and Love.

○ LORD GOD, Who from old time even until now, hast never failed to lead men to Thy love, pour down upon us light, that we who come to seek Thy Face may now attain Thy promises. Uplift our hearts to new energy and to new devotion; that we may be unburdened and go forth through success and failure, learning from both to bring our moods beneath Thy dear Son's Passion. Chiefly we pray that Thou wilt give us knowledge of Thyself, that we may see Thee, feel Thee, hear Thee, know Thy call. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

¶ Let us pray for the unity of Toc H.

℣ Didst Thou not say: "For I know Mine and My own know Me."

℟ Then let it be according to Thy word.

GOD, Who alone canst make men to be of one mind in an house, and of one heart in the power of the Resurrection, dissolve into one greater life, merge into one true soul, divided sympathies in Toc H which do not yet work for the common end. Show us the innate splendour of the men from whom we differ, and give them conquest over our own plans, if ways which Thou hast shown to them are the more fruitful, as they well may be. Remove the mote and beam from arguing eyes. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

¶ Let us pray for our nearest Leaders and Servants.

℣ When Thy Word goeth forth

℟ It giveth light and understanding to the simple.

A silence here. L ORD JESUS CHRIST, we laud and magnify Thy Name for all who serve Toc H in leadership, especially our friends and fellow-servants. Strengthen, and lead them onward by Thy grace. Preserve them in ardour, in holiness, in bodily health, and in a growing joy, that they may bear the weight of work by seeing now and then the first fruits of their labour. Encourage and uplift their hearts, and cause Thou us to help them with sincerity. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

¶ Let us pray for new Leadership in Toc H.

℣ Attempt great things for God.

℟ Expect great things from God.

R AISE UP, Great Master, in Toc H, new forces to Thy service and Thy glory. Teach them to welcome, to bind together, and having done all to stand, that tomorrow may set us more forward than today. Have them not only beneath Thine eye, but beneath Thy care, that none go short of immortal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

¶ Let us pray for thanks-living in Toc H.

℣ Prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us.

Rv O prosper Thou our handiwork.

MASTER, as this year closes and passes from our hands, we thank Thee for these days of Festival, and for every word of Thy truth which has entered our Movement, and for every touch of love in action which has gone forth through the channel of Toc H. For all shortcomings and unfaithfulnesses we seek Thy pardon. And since we ask Thy mercy on our weakness, help us to show such mercy and patience, that no ill-will may be left in our own hearts. Save us from self-sufficiency, or mere efficiency, and suffer us not to spoil Thy world by lovelessness; but give us the power of the sons of God to bring in the reign of love among men. We commend to Thee those who belong to us, who are not here with us, casting our care for them on Thee, and praying Thee to do the best for them. So send us to our homes with a burning love and with a sense of duty, that our return may bring a benediction for our brethren, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

¶ Let us pray for those that are fallen asleep in Jesus.

℣ They shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Rv In that day when I make up my jewels.

ORD, to Whom many men came quietly to be taught beyond the Jordan, we pray Thee for the chief of all our strength, the first-born of this House; and since those days, for all who have departed, for all who served Thy cause among us sinful men, whose names and needs Thou knowest, every one, in whatsoever world or state or circumstance. Vouchsafe them light and joy in the companionship of all the greathearts Thou hast given. Tell them, if it may be, that they are here remembered and regarded; and grant us such sense of kinship and of friendship as Thy laws permit to those on earth; that we may also learn not to fear fate, since they in Thee have overcome the sharpness of death. Give them new service, pardon all their sins, for no man sinneth not; transfigure them, Thyself alone unchangeable. Into Thy hands we would commend their spirits, for hast Thou not redeemed their souls through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

THE TOC H PRAYER.

Then the Household will say together :—

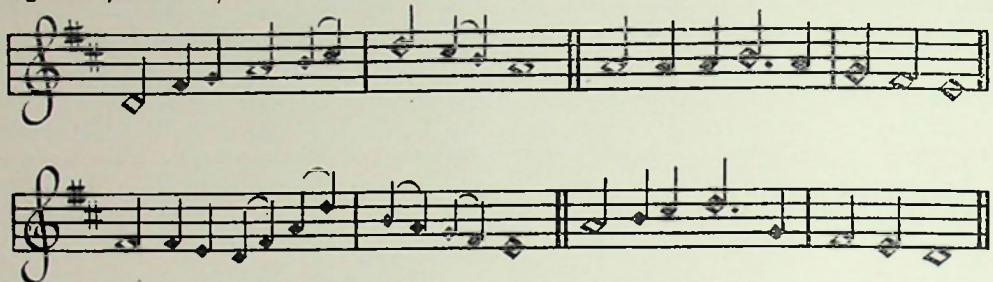
O GOD, who hast so wonderfully made Toc H, and set men in it to see their duty as Thy will, teach us to live together, in love and joy and peace; to check all bitterness; to disown discouragement; to practise thanksgiving, and to leap with joy to any task for others. Strengthen the good thing thus begun; that, with gallant and high-hearted happiness, we may work for Thy Kingdom in the wills of men. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

RE-DEDICATION.

The Household then stands, rededicating personal allegiance in the singing of these lines :—

English Hymnal 167.

Tune : Duke Street



DEAR Master, in Whose life I see
All that I long yet fail to be;
Let Thy great light within me shine,
To shame and warm this will of mine.
Though all I dream and all I do
In my poor life are always two,
Help me, oppressed by things undone,
O Thou whose dreams and deeds are one.

Adapted from Anon.

BLESSING.

Then the Lord Bishop of London thus bids and bestows a Blessing on the Household of Toc H, standing :—

Bishop. They drew near and came.
R They helped everyone his neighbour.
Bishop. And everyone said to his brother
R “Be of good courage.”

The Household now kneeling :—

Let us Pray.

SPRIT OF GOD, come down upon this people, who fain would be Thy servants. Let none of them be fearful or faint-hearted as they go forth in newness of life. Open Thou their eyes that they may see the noblest and best who have lived on earth as their companions in Thine Household, heirs of the one great hope. Therefore, the Peace of God, which passeth understanding, be on you and among you, evermore.
Amen.

THE ENDING HYMN.

English Hymnal 407

St. Denio



IMMORTAL, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhaunting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest—to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but nought changeth Thee.

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light,
Thine Angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

W. Chalmers Smith.

*The Household is asked to keep its place until the procession of Choir and Clergy
has left the Cathedral.*

SOME PRAYERS FOR USE ON OTHER OCCASIONS.

The limits of time at the Festival Service will not allow us to remember in our prayers more than a few subjects. Here is a further small selection of prayers for more general use.

For Toc H Overseas.

FATHER of all, who hast promised to show favour to the prayers that Thy children make for one another, let Thy loving spirit strengthen our dear kindred beyond the seas. Endue them with the blessing of Thy goodness, and set a crown of pure purpose upon all they do. Pour into all hearts the spirit of unselfishness, the habit of ungrudging and unwearying kindness in the common cause of the life that is life indeed. O Thou on whom the isles do wait, let us not be disappointed of our hopes, but be it unto us according to our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Outward-bound Member.

V Behold, I am with thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land.
R For I will not leave thee.
V He shall give His Angels charge over thee.
R To keep thee in all thy ways.

O GOD, whom neither distance nor time can part from those whom Thou does sustain, through all the way in which he goes, be Guide and Companion to our fellow-servant. May no harm befall him, no difficulty oppress him. May all things work together to him for good, that he may do his duty, nothing doubting ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concerning Race and Colour.

FATHER, who hast made all men in Thy likeness and lovest all whom Thou hast made, suffer not our Family to separate itself from Thee by building barriers of race and colour. As thy Son our Saviour was born of a Hebrew Mother, but rejoiced in the faith of a Syrian woman and of a Roman soldier, welcomed the Greeks who sought Him, and suffered an African to carry His Cross, so teach us to regard the members of all races as fellow heirs of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For our Common Life.

L ORD, establish our common life in the first steps of a perpetual mission among men, that through Toc H the whisper may spread that here is something happier than lodgings, finer than self-pleasing, and more compelling than a wasted evening. Yea, establish Toc H in the watchful study of men ; and make it able to shew them that the needs they lightly acknowledge are less than the needs God knows for them. Let all its deeds be wrought in God, that by the mercy of the Most High the work may not miscarry. Amen.

For Times of Training.

GOD, Who alone canst know how selfishness and ignorance thwart Thy purposes, bestow the guidance of Thy Spirit upon our plans for Training. May this brief time be blessed for Everyman, may sight be unconfused, may what is here resolved proceed to steady execution. Make plain the way whereby good words can find their proper fruit in a far wiser working. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Light Within the Mind.

O THOU, whose secret is with them that fear Thee, give us in all our doubts that humble grace which asks its way of Thee continually, yet is content to serve Thee, in perplexity. Save us, we pray Thee, from those actions which lead to nothing but regret; but let us not be halted by the shadow of any disappointment through which it is Thy will that we should traverse. Amid all mental stress, when we are troubled by hard questions, do Thou Thyself lift up the lamp of truth, that in the light it sheds we may see light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Courage.

LORD, in Whose sight the living are not justified, yet in whose arms the blessed dead repose; defend us against the cowardice which is attracted by sacrifice, as a word, yet shuns it as a fact; nerve us to attempt the hard as easy, and to treat the easy with undaunted thoroughness. School us to blame no other weakness than our own, and to have patience with all men but ourselves. For in bringing many sons to glory, Thou didst taste death for every man. Wherefore, now seated at the right hand of power, hear us, O Jesu. Amen and Amen.

For Self-conquest.

PARDON Thy would-be servants, Lord, for ceding ground to life's worst enemies, weakness of will, slackness in prayer, grudging in giving, pleasing of ourselves. Fill us with longing for a larger spirit; quicken our energies by the compulsion of a fine example; waken our conscience against heedlessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

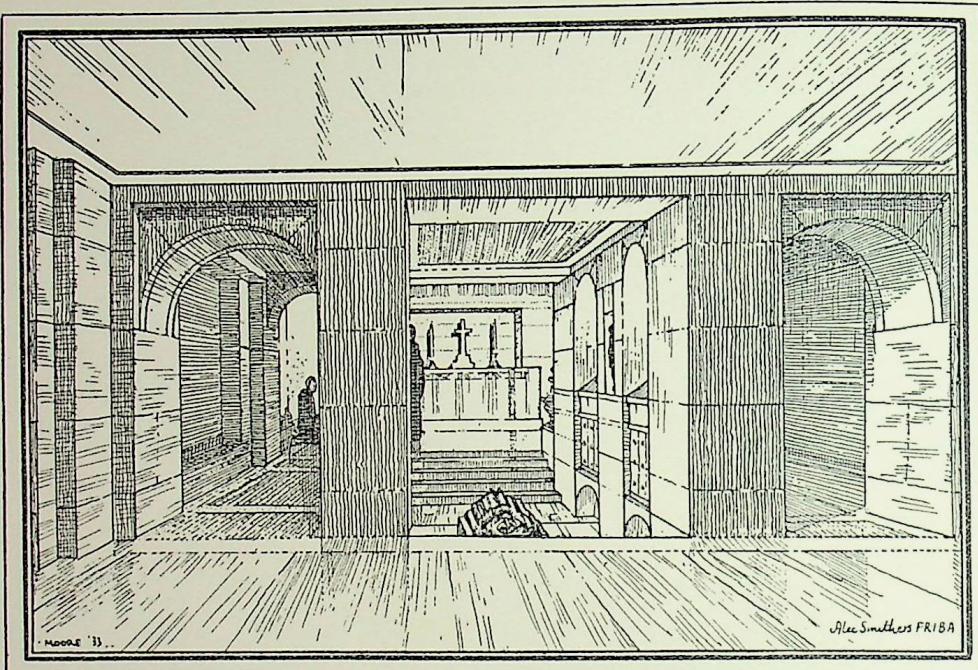
A Thanksgiving for Toc H.

THANKS be to Thee for having called Toc H to carry forward this double work of reconciliation between man and man, and between man and God. For the loyalty and ardour of the members, in whom is our hope and joy and crown of rejoicing. For the brotherly love which needs not to be written, since it is taught of God. For the promise set before all good and faithful servants—

V Thou art our God, and we will thank Thee.

R Thou art our God, and we will praise Thee.

"A CHAMBER CALLED PEACE."



All Hallows-by-the-Tower, E.C.3, was threatened with collapse of the age-long Fabric in 1929. This was averted by the construction in reinforced concrete at great expense, borne in part by the City Companies, of a noble Undercroft. This picture shews the Sanctuary now in process of completion, for which £2,450 is still required. It is designed to form the resting-place of the Ashes of Members of the Toc H Family, generation after generation.

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PEACE: A MEDITATION.

The one sure hope for the permanent formation of world peace lies in the extension of the principles of Jesus Christ round the world. — BRYCE.

But whence comes Peace?

Peace springs from tribulation, which begets
Patience, and patience brings experience,
Experience hope; Hope maketh not ashamed,
Because the love of God is spread abroad
Within our hearts by the Spirit given to us.

Who gave it?

Christ, the blessed and only One.

And when?

Why, when He died for us.

And when was that?

Why, when we did not know that we were His;
When we were yet in bondage to our sins.
So, while the guard below the Cross threw dice
To while away the tedium of the time,
He Who hung there flung the high main of death,
Poised upon this awful throne of His; a moan,
A harsh revengeful word, and the whole soul of man
Would be forever lost in dark despair.
Hence we receive atonement, joy and peace,
And access to this Grace wherein we stand.

P.B.C.

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